

For the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance, population obtaining within the Municipal area of the city and for Compensatory (city) Allowance, the population of the Urban Agglomeration of the city, wherever it exists, otherwise that of the Municipal area of the city is taken into account.

(c) As per the population figures of 1981 census, Aurangabad in Maharashtra is a 'C' class city.

(d) and (e) The question of re-classification of Aurangabad can be taken up only after population figures of 1991 census become available.

[English]

Appointment of Fifth Pay Commission

404. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint the Fifth Pay Commission as the dearness allowance has crossed fifty per cent mark thereby eroding the pay scales in terms of real value;

(b) if so, when

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to convert the existing dearness allowance into dearness pay to give benefit to the retiring Government servants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Increase in the quantum of Dearness Allowance is not

the criteria for appointment of Pay Commission.

(d) A demand to treat a portion of Dearness Allowance as Dearness Pay for all purposes except pension was raised by the Staff Side in the last meeting of the National Council (JCM). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Murders on Polling Booths in Bihar

405. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of murders on polling booths which took place in Bihar on 20 May and 12 June, 1991, Lok Sabha Constituency-wise;

(b) the names of voters killed on 12 June 1991 in Jalepy and Benipatti Assembly segments of Mithibani Lok Sabha constituency; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government is this regard and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order is of the concerned State Government. The Central Government, however, remain

in touch with the State Governments and constantly monitor and review the situation. As and when necessary, suitable assistance is provided to the State Government. State Government is, however, being addressed to indicate the specific steps taken by them in this regard.

Loans to Victims of Disturbances after Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

406 SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Reserve Bank of India to issue instructions to the Commercial Banks to provide loan assistance at concessional rate of interest to the identified victims of the disturbances following the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to re-start their economic activity

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL BIR SINGH) : (a) No Sir. As per the practice being presently followed, in the event of riots/disturbances, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on receipt of reports/request from the concerned State Government in this behalf and after taking into account the nature and magnitude of the disturbances, advises banks to extend rehabilitation assistance to the affected persons on the lines of guidelines applicable in respect of persons affected by natural calamities.

(b) Does not arise,

(c) The existing practice followed by RBI cover such situations adequately. Hence no need was felt by the Government to issue fresh instructions in this regard.

Candidates killed in Punjab

407. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of candidates and their bodyguards killed after the announcement to conduct the poll in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : According to the information available as on 16-7-91, 23 contesting candidates and 21 body guards of the candidates have been killed since the announcement of poll in Punjab.

Declaration of Roads in Kerala as National Highways

408. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any of the existing roads in Kerala as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has suggested any plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?